

News

From the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission

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Media Advisory

KENTUCKY STATE NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION PRESENTS ANNUAL VOLUNTEER STEWARD AWARD

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 18, 2003) -- Today, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) presented its Volunteer Steward Awards to members of the Cumberland Chapter of the Sierra Club's Service Trip program. The recipients of the first-ever KSNPC volunteer awards are Service Trip Leaders Martha Payne, Darren Payne and Carol von Lanken.

These Cumberland Chapter Sierra Club leaders have consistently assisted KSNPC's Nature Preserves and Natural Areas Branch with countless hours of trail building, brush cutting and invasive plant eradication at various state nature preserves. Their efforts have helped ensure the protection of many rare species, including the federally endangered Short's goldenrod (*Solidago shortii*) and the Virginia big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*).

In making the award presentation to the Paynes and von Lanken, commission chair Clara Wheatley said, "We appreciate the years of assistance you have provided. Our staff is inspired by knowing they can depend on the generosity of such dedicated citizens to continue to assist as our preserve system grows."

KSNPC's mission is to protect Kentucky's natural heritage by: (1) identifying, acquiring and managing natural areas that represent the best-known occurrences of rare, native species, natural communities and significant natural features in a statewide nature preserve system; (2) working with others to protect biological diversity; and (3) educating Kentuckians as to the value and purpose of nature preserves and biodiversity conservation. The commission inventories Kentucky for significant natural areas and protects the best examples in a state nature preserve system with 17,835 acres statewide.

More information about the commission can be obtained by mail (KSNPC, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601-1403), by telephone (502) 573-2886 or on the Internet (www.kynaturepreserves.org).